

2013 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award

Sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy

The 2013 Wind Cooperative of the Year Award will honor one electric cooperative for its leadership in wind power. All electric cooperatives that are members of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) are eligible to apply. Cooperatives can nominate themselves or other systems and there is no cost to enter. The Wind Cooperative of the Year Award is sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) in partnership with the NRECA.

This year marks the thirteenth anniversary of the award. Since the program's inception, winners have included Iowa Lakes Cooperative, Minnkota Power Cooperative, Kodiak Electric Association, Wolverine Power Supply Cooperative, Alaska Village Electric Cooperative, Associated Electric Cooperative, Illinois Rural Electric Cooperative, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative, Holy Cross Energy, Basin Electric Power Cooperative, Great River Energy, East River Electric Power Cooperative, and Golden Valley Electric Association. The 2013 winner(s) will be recognized at the NRECA [TechAdvantage Conference](#) in Nashville, TN on March 6, 2014 conference closing luncheon. Please submit nominations (using page two of this nomination form) to:

Randy Manion
Renewable Resource Program Manager
Western Area Power Administration
P.O. Box 281213
Lakewood, CO 80228-8213
720-962-7423
manion@wapa.gov

Due Date

All nominations are due by close of business on January 15, 2014.

Additional Information

Entries will be judged in four areas:

- Corporate leadership
- Innovative marketing
- Benefits to customers
- Project creativity.

Page two of this form must be used as the template for all nominations, and responses should not exceed 1000 words. Graphics of the project and innovative marketing materials may be submitted as attachments. Nominations exceeding 1000 words may be penalized in the judging process.

For additional information, call Randy Manion, Western Area Power Administration, at 720-962-7423 or manion@wapa.gov.

Nominator Contact Information

Name: Mona Newton
Title: Regional Representative
Company: Governor's Energy Office – State of Colorado
Address: 1580 Logan St. Suite 100
Phone: 303.809.0379
Fax: 303.866.2930
E-mail: Mona.Newton@state.co.us
Relationship to nominee: partner in offering incentives

Nominee Contact Information

Name: Ray Singmaster
Title: Governor's Energy Office Solar/Wind Rebate Program Manager
Company: Mountain View Electric Association
Address: 11140 E Woodmen Rd, Falcon Colorado, 80831
Phone: (719) 494-2655
Fax: (719) 494-2694
E-mail: singmasterr@mvea.org

Nominee Communications/Public Relations Contact

Name: Deborah Skillicorn
Title: Member Service Specialist
Phone: (719) 494-2602
Fax: (719) 494-2694
E-mail: skillicornd@mvea.org

Why are you nominating this organization? (In 500 words or fewer, please describe how this electric cooperative has demonstrated corporate leadership with wind power; any innovative marketing or customer education associated with wind power at this cooperative; how customers have benefited from the cooperative's involvement in wind power; and any creative solutions to barriers the cooperative faced in securing wind power. Please include information regarding the year the cooperative started considering wind power and the percentage of contribution wind provides to the cooperative's total power supply.)

The Governor's Energy Office developed a pilot program offering incentives for the installation of small wind turbines. To incent utilities to get involved in the program, the GEO offered \$25,000 to be matched by a utility to create a pool of money that would be offered to residents and commercial property owners. Mountain View Electric Co-op became one of the four original partners, in 2009, to offer financial incentives for small wind turbines for residential and commercial buildings. MVEA marketed the program to their members through their newsletter, website and staff outreach. The initial round of funding expired quickly which prompted the utility board of directors to approve additional funding to continue the program and request additional matching funds from the GEO, which also was approved. Due to the leadership and enthusiasm by MVEA staff and board of directors, last two years has seen wind installations grow from 2 members with wind turbines to 41 members providing 135 kW in wind power. The cooperative partnered with the GEO to provide over \$200,000 in rebates to those members installing renewable energy within MVEA's service territory. To facilitate the process, MVEA also made changes to its interconnection policy and established a liberal net metering program to help customers recoup costs. The co-op focuses on residential and small commercial projects.

Many of their members were interested in installing wind generation, but needed more information. MVEA hosted several wind seminars bringing in experts on various aspects of building generation. The co-op also installed a wind and a solar array at their office to demonstrate how the equipment was interconnected and functioned. Members can log onto MVEA's website or go into the lobby of the office to view production data. MVEA's staff is also an excellent source of information and assistance. They stay abreast of the latest developments in technology and take the time to have an in-depth conversation with anyone interested in renewables, taking care to only present the facts so the member can make an educated decision.

Safety of members and linemen is a major concern. The staff has established an excellent working relationship with the Pikes Peak Regional Building Department to ensure that all equipment is installed in a safe manner, inspected and function tested and have safety

disconnects. The lives of the line crews could depend on how well an inspection is performed and a system installed. After a member has installed their system, MVEA staff continues to offer assistance and information. As with any technology, sometimes the expectations exceed the reality. Staff members will meet on site to help customers however they can.

MVEA has gone above and beyond to help establish a workable and user friendly program for its members interested in wind generation and have truly have been a leader in promoting small wind in Colorado. Staff members have also been very helpful in devising a statewide small wind incentive program that is available to all residents that reside in areas with good wind resources.

Optional additional information (not counted against 500-word limit):

A. Location of wind generation and year installed:

Since starting the program in 2009 – to date, MVEA has grid interconnected 41 residential wind turbines of various sizes up to 15kW, for a total of 135 kW.

B. Project budget, including a short description of any innovative financing methods:

MVEA has provided an initial investment of \$55,000 in the renewable demonstration area including a 2 kW wind turbine and a complete grid interconnection and Net Meter, matching funds of \$155,555.00 to rebate residential renewable systems, and dedicated many, many man-hours of labor managing the program and interacting with the members, local officials, building departments, and GEO representatives.

Initially GEO offered \$25,000 in funds which were matched by the utility. Total rebates issued - \$200,000

C. Challenges of the development or purchasing process (e.g., market interruptions, internal hurdles, buying a new technology):

As with any new program the initial buy in and endorsement from the Board of Directors is always a deliberate and painstaking process. As stewards of the member/owners' money they assess the return on investment of each dollar invested by the Co-op. The intangible benefit of partnering with the GEO and supporting our members who choose to participate in renewable programs, such as wind, legitimized the Board's decision. The entire Member Services team has had to become quasi expert in the technology in order answer our member's questions.



